



RI BUILDERS  
ASSOCIATION  
BUILDING PROFESSIONALS SINCE 1945

April 13, 2021

The Honorable Marvin Abney  
Chairman, House Committee on Finance  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence, RI 02903

Re: H 6122, Article 16 Relating to Housing

Chairman Abney and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the RI Builders Association, the state's long standing residential construction trade association comprised of over 900 member companies with expertise in housing development and related issues, and as the industry that built the roughly 400,000 existing homes in RI, we write in support of the goals of the article to increase housing production, and would like to share these additional thoughts as well:

1. While we appreciate the specific attention given to housing with a dedicated role within Commerce, we still feel an elevated cabinet level position is warranted or if within Commerce, the role be equally positioned creating a Dept of Commerce & Housing.
2. Municipal incentives for housing are needed and we are supportive of the concept presented but also want to express that incentives likely need to be much bolder, involve greater density policies and an overall State housing / growth policy. The incentives should also be much more broad than educational reimbursement (especially in a State with declining enrollments) and should include targeted infrastructure support across the entire housing spectrum.
3. The dedicated funding stream for housing and housing incentives is absolutely needed. And although we have supported the exploration of other means instead of the conveyance tax, the increase in the tax limit to 700k and the use of existing revenues toward housing is a welcome improvement over previous proposals.

The above noted, RIBA remains committed to assist policy makers and other stakeholders in any manner necessary on housing issues. We appreciate the efforts by all parties and look forward to the creation of a housing policy that is balanced with both energy and environmental concerns. A policy that solves the need for additional shelter and assists with the economic growth and well-being of our State.

Respectfully submitted,

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Executive Officer

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